tapol
The Indonesia Human Rights Campaign
111 Northwood Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR4 8HW. Tel: 01-771 2904 Telex: 933524 REF GEO2:TAPOL
Honorary President: Lord Avebury; Honorary Treasurer: Tom Soper; Organising Secretary: Carmel Budiardjo

19 July 1988

Dr Vassos Lyssarides, President,
Cypriot National Democratic Union (EDEK)
23a Const. Paleologos Avenue,
Nicosia

Dear Dr Lyssarides,

In less than two months time, the government of Cyprus will be host to a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement. One of the decisions to be taken at that meeting will be regarding the venue of the next Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement. We are very concerned at reports that Indonesia is making a strong bid to host that Conference and take over the presidency of the Movement for the next three years.

Indonesia can rightly claim to have been one of the founders of the Non-Aligned Movement. It has however forfeited the right to any position of leadership in the Movement because of its flagrant violation of the right to self-determination of the people of East Timor and West Papua. The people of both these countries now live under a harsh military occupation, with human rights violations a permament feature of their everyday life. Both peoples have seen their right to self-determination flagrantly violated, yet this is a right that has been fundamental to the Non-Aligned Movement ever since its inception.

Particularly in the case of East Timor, the stance of the Non-Aligned Movement is very important at this time. In November 1982, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 37/30, calling upon the Secretary-General to enter into consultations "with all the parties directly concerned, with a view to exploring avenues for achieving a comprehensive settlement of the question". So far, negotiations have involved only Portugal, the country recognised by the UN as the administering power, and Indonesia, the country which annexed East Timor in violation of the UN Charter and of UN Resolution 1514. Indonesia stubbornly refuses to consider the basic right of the people of East Timor to self-determination, whereas Portugal is bound by Article 297 of its Constitution to uphold that right for the East Timorese.

Previous attempts by Indonesia to become President of NAM have been frustrated, in part because a number of countries in the Movement have condemned Indonesia for its illegal occupation of East Timor. At present, international efforts are being greatly intensified, in support of East Timor's inalienable right as laid down by the United Nations. Earlier this year, Portugal gained the support of all members of the European Community to adopt a common position at the UN, one that would safeguard the political and social rights of the people of East Timor and bring about a solution that is acceptable to the people of that country.

TL1386
-1

It would be a serious setback for these efforts if Indonesia were to gain the presidency of the Non-Aligned Movement, enhancing its international reputation. It has become evident to us that Indonesia's bid to gain the presidency is indeed intended to strengthen its hand against growing international pressure for recognition of East Timor's rights.

The Government of Cyprus, as host of the September meeting, can play a crucial role in upholding the just cause of the people of East Timor. We therefore urge you and your Party to impress upon your Government the need to prevent Indonesia from succeeding in its efforts to become president of the NAM.

The pain of occupation is certainly something very close to the innermost feelings of the people of Cyprus. We believe that Cyprus would not want to be associated in any way with a decision that would constitute such a setback to the rights of the people of East Timor who have suffered the indignities of illegal occupation for the past thirteen years.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Budiardjo